

PALESTINE SOLIDARITY

Newsletter

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HANDS OFF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

Israel's deportation of three West Bank leaders in early May to the Lebanon, unanimously condemned by the U.N. Security Council (the U.S. abstained in the voting), and the indelible accompanying terror against Palestinians, pose a new challenge to public opinion everywhere.

In addition to marking a new low for the Israeli authorities in their futile attempts to break down resistance to occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it constitutes a serious escalation of Israeli terror in the occupied territories which can result in tragic consequences yet unknown to the Middle East.

Pogroms

Although Israeli army spokesmen refer to their new nightmarish operations as a "get tough" policy — though their occupation was never lenient or benevolent — leading members of the Israeli establishment who were shocked by what has been happening since the end of April, have called the operations by a more appropriate name — pogroms.

A total 24-hour curfew was clamped down on several towns and villages for nearly three weeks (in some localities it is still in force); thousands of heavily armed soldiers moved into all towns, villages and localities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip reinforcing the troops which were already there; families were moved out of their homes and left in the open air without shelter; while the houses were either demolished or sealed off; children — 12, 13, and 14 years old — were arrested, beaten and tortured; thousands of men and women

were arrested and thrown into jail without being charged; mayors and other elected officials were held virtually under house arrest and barred from making any statements; telephones and communications between Arab cities and towns were cut; a young man (17 years old) was cold-bloodedly killed by an Israeli officer.

As Israeli soldiers so "bravely" went around spreading their terror to every home in the occupied territories, bands of Israeli colonial settlers of the Gush Emunim movement and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Jewish Defence League, were allowed to roam the occupied Arab localities living under curfew, vandalising and terrorising the inhabitants and spreading Rabbi Kahane's message "Arabs shall not live in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank-Editor)."

Justification

In an attempt to soften the effect of its terrorism on public opinion, the Israeli government tried to justify the unjustifiable. It said that the operations were an answer to an armed Palestinian attack on Israeli colonial settlers which killed 6 Israelis and wounded 16 others. Its propaganda machinery was put in high gear to convince world public opinion that the Palestinians are to be blamed for the bloodshed and the mounting tension in the occupied territories.

No matter what the Israeli authorities say or choose to peddle, it is simply clear that occupation itself, with all the Israeli terror and persecution that accompany it, is, first and last, responsible for the continued

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ATTEMPT ON LIVES OF THREE ARAB MAYORS

The criminal attempt by fascist-like gangs of Israeli colonial settlers on the lives of three West Bank mayors, Bassam Shaka'ah of Nablus, Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, and Ibrahim Tawil of Al-Birch, is yet another irrefutable proof of Israel's determined intention to physically liquidate Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories.

The planting of explosives in the cars of the three mayors which was intended to kill them, but resulted in the amputation of the two legs of Shaka'ah, the left foot of Khalaf and the injury of an Israeli bomb expert (Tawil escaped unharmed), comes one month after the expulsion to Lebanon of three other West Bank leaders. The perpetrators of the crime themselves have indicated that they intend to physically liquidate Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories in order to deprive the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip of an effective and active leadership.

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Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka'ah in hospital after the attempt on his life and the lives of two other West Bank mayors, Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, and Ibrahim Tawil of Al-Birch, by Israeli colonial settlers. Shaka'ah lost both legs as a result. "They've taken my legs, but it means I'm more firmly planted to the soil," he said after the attack. (UPI)

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and increasing bloodshed.

The axiom "violence breeds violence" is historically true; and Israeli violence is no exception. The continued denial of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people will not lead to tranquility and peace; the grabbing of Arab land and the settling up of Israeli colonial settlements in the occupied territories will not stop the bloodshed; the incarceration of thousands of Palestinians and the unrestrained Israeli terror will not stamp out resistance to occupation. Palestinians, like all other victims of occupation and terror before them, will not take it lying down. Only dreamers would expect them to, and the sooner the Israeli government accepts this fact the better, because then and only then can there be meaningful talk about preventing bloodshed and achieving tranquility.

Pouring oil on the fire

Even the leading Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* (with strong links with the establishment) spelled this out in its editorial on May 4, 1980.

"One cannot but doubt that such measures... will put an end to the unrest that is growing and dominating the Arab population... Never was there a basis to believe that the presence of the Israeli Defence Forces in the administered (occupied) territories will move the Arab population to adopt the theory of 'living together'... All the methods of the 'strong hand' will only deepen Arab enmity toward us and the idea of expropriating 120,000 dunums (1200 hectares) of privately owned land in order to expand existing settlements and establish new ones will only pour oil on the fire."

"The government has only one option left: to work for a political settlement which will free us from the

burden of ruling a hostile population..."

The *Jerusalem Post*, another Israeli daily with establishment links, admitted on May 4, 1980 that there is among Palestinians in the occupied territories "increased readiness to confront settlers and the army." Quoting government sources it said that armed resistance to settlers and the army inside the occupied territories have increased by 100 percent.

Referring to the incident in Hebron (Al-Khalil) it said, "The scale, the planning, the timing and particularly the target of the attack make seasoned observers predict a radical escalation in the conflict between Jewish settlers and local Arab residents."

Partisan warfare

Ha'aretz (May 4, 1980) went further in its analysis of the incident: "One is wrong to think that all that could be done is to suppress the 'hooliganism'... One should not become hysterical and assume that the concerned Arab population is not yet able to organise actions similar to those organised by the Jewish population... The ambush near the Hadassah building in Hebron was organised and executed in accordance with all the rules of partisan warfare. And if it was local Arabs who acted there, as it is suggested, this proves that they are capable of learning these methods."

The logical conclusion is that Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation and terror is increasing and will continue to do so. As Israel's multi-form terror and persecution in the occupied territories increase, Palestinian resistance will equally mount, and probably at a higher rate; and the Middle East, which is already sitting on a powder keg, will be plunged into a new tragic confrontation the consequences of which for world peace will be hard to predict.

Act now!

In this situation, governments, as well as public opinion everywhere are left no choice, but to shoulder their responsibility. With the danger coming close to home, they have to realise that Israel's continued negation of Palestinian national rights, and

continued terror in the occupied territories are the cause of all the bloodletting and tragedies that the region has witnessed so far. Long gone are the times when people could shun the problem or shrug their shoulders claiming nothing can be done. Israel has to be made to stop its terror in the occupied territories, end its settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It must dismantle all existing colonial settlements there and recognise the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to their own independent sovereign state.

Every form of pressure and action has to be used by public opinion to achieve this aim which is the only guarantee for a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Your involvement as a person, organisation or group of persons is imperative for speedy achievement of this objective.

What can you do?

- Send messages of protest to the Israeli Prime Minister, the Israeli Defence Minister and Israeli diplomatic missions in your country against the terror and persecution in the occupied territories.

- Write to your member of Parliament and your government asking them to put pressure on the Israeli government to end its terror in the occupied territories.

- Demand of your government that it accord full diplomatic recognition to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, if it has not yet done so.

- Demand of your government that it support in the U.N. resolutions that censure and condemn Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied territories, if it has not already done so.

- Write letters to newspapers in your country exposing the Israeli terror in the occupied territories.

- Express through letters and petitions your solidarity with the people in the occupied territories.

- Demand the implementation of the U.N. resolutions on the Palestine question.

Let your motto be:
HANDS OFF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

The Hebron affaire: WHERE LIES THE RESPONSIBILITY?

The military operation carried out by Palestinians against Israeli soldiers and colonial settlers in the all-Arab town of Al-Khalil (Hebron) has triggered disagreements inside the Israeli establishment.

Several leading politicians and journalists have brushed aside the government's attempts to hold the Palestinians responsible for the blood that was shed, and squarely lay the blame on the government and its policy of expansionism and annexation.

Former Israeli Army Chief of Staff, Haim Bar-Lev, echoing this feeling, told the Knesset (Parliament) on May 5 (*Jerusalem Post*, May 8, 1980) "that the Hebron attack would not have taken place had Jews not settled in the Hadassah building in (Hebron)."

The "original sin"

Even Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Yadin struck a similar note. He told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on May 6 (*Jerusalem Post*, May 7, 1980) that "the original sin" in the Hebron affair was the squatting operation by Kiryat Arba women, who occupied the Hadassah building last year and took over. The cabinet decided to remove the women but did nothing to implement its decision." He said that the cabinet decision later to set up a field school in old Hebron resulted from a Gush Equanim pressure campaign. It was "a blow to peaceful coexistence and increases the area of friction instead of reducing it," he added.

A leading Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* (May 4, 1980) was more explicit. "There is no people," it said "which will accept foreign rule without grinding their teeth. But the infiltration of Jewish settlers

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into areas under military occupation and densely populated by Arabs is bound under the conditions existing in 1980 to provoke stronger resistance. The settlers are hated by the Arabs in the areas..."

The extent of opposition to the government's policy was further reflected in the lamenting remarks of right-wing Rabbi Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party. Druckman told reporters (Jerusalem Post, May 8, 1980) that he found no concrete evidence that "the entire nation" mourned the Hebron affair. He chided the press for describing those who were killed and wounded as "settlers", and expressed his concern that ever since the affair there appeared a deterioration of relations among Israelis.

Hebron Affair

The leading Israeli afternoon daily Ma'arev (May 3, 1980) reported in detail what exactly happened in Hebron. It said that fire was opened and hand grenades were hurled on a group of soldiers and settlers, after women and children were allowed to pass unharmed, on their way to the Hadassah (Al-Dabwela) building in Hebron. The attack only lasted two to five minutes and resulted in the killing of 3 soldiers and 3 settlers and the wounding of 16 others, among them several soldiers. Two of the killed



Israeli soldiers on the rooftops and on the streets in the centre of Hebron imposing a 17-day total curfew on the all-Arab town in the West Bank. Opposite the town on the roof is the rubble of three buildings demolished by the occupation authorities in a move of collective punishment against the town.

were former Vietnam veterans who immigrated to Israel and joined the colonial settlers movement.

One of the Vietnam veterans, whom official Israeli wirepatches referred to as a U.S. tourist, turned out to be, according to the paper and established identification, James Eli Mahon, Jr., a violence-prone person who was known in his Washington neighbourhood as "Crazy Jim".

A history of Mahon's life published by The Washington Post (May 7, 1980) revealed that he was a Christian convert to Judaism, who changed his name to Eli Haza'ev (Eli the Wolf) when

he moved from the U.S. to Israel seven years ago. In 1970 he was arrested in Washington in the shotgun slaying of a fellow member of a motorcycle gang, known as the Vipers. He served two tours of duty with the 101st U.S. Airborne Division in Vietnam, and later served in the Israeli army.

A Virginia neighbour who knew him very well told the Washington Post that Haza'ev boasted that he was "the point man on the squads (in Vietnam) which went into underground tunnels looking for Vietcong."

"He liked to go to war," the neighbour told the paper. "The idea of violence and

weapons appealed to him. One day in his backyard he suddenly started spraying the leaves, as if he had a machine gun in his hands. Once he got to a war I don't think it mattered who was on the other side."

In Israel, according to the Israeli press, Haza'ev became a member of the extreme right-wing Jewish Defence League of Rabbi Meir Kahane and later joined the colonial settlement in the all-Arab town of Hebron. There his favorite past-time was to terrorize the Arab inhabitants. Armed with two pistols strapped to his hips, he would insult, beat and humiliate Arab women, men and children alike.

The New York Times (May 14, 1980) aptly commented on Haza'ev's behaviour when it said editorially: "James Eli Mahon, Jr., turns out to have been a sad and dangerous figure who loved to kill... Not content with a full measure of killing in Vietnam, he finally turned up in Israel as Eli Haza'ev, changed his religion and gravitated to the most fanatic and violent fringe groups that encouraged his stalking the West Bank in search of new victims."

According to The New York Times, Haza'ev's father, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, refused at the funeral to accept a rabbi's assurance that his son died in a holy cause. Haza'ev's mother put it even more succinctly: "We keep honouring the dead," she said. "But they were dead wrong."

3 West Bank Leaders Deported in Move to Deprive Palestinians of Leadership

The expulsion by Israel of three prominent West Bank leaders on May 3, marked a new step in the continuous and feverish attempts to deprive Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip of a capable and active leadership.

The attempts, which go back to the beginning of occupation itself, have been stepped up recently and assumed special urgency as Israel and its Camp David partners, Egypt and the U.S.A., press their efforts to impose the autonomy plan on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A statement by the National



The three West Bank leaders deported by Israel on May 3. (L-R): Mohammed Milhem, Mayor of Halhoul, Sheikh Rajeb Tamimi, religious judge of Hebron, and Fahd Qawasmeih, Mayor of Hebron.

Guidance Committee in the Occupied Territories, after the expulsion of the three leaders, warned against this

incisive attempt and said that the expulsion "mainly aims at depriving our people in the occupied territories of their

patriotic leadership in an attempt to impose on them the autonomy plan."

A military operation

The three leaders, Hebron's mayor, Fahd Qawasmeih, Hebron's religious judge, Sheikh Rajeb Tamimi and Halhoul's mayor, Mohammed Hassan Milhem, were deported in the thick of night and amidst a stifling atmosphere of terror launched by the Israeli authorities on May 3. They were dragged from their homes separately by heavily armed soldiers under false pretenses of a meeting with

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3 WEST BANK LEADERS DEPORTED IN MOVE TO DEPRIVE PALESTINIANS OF LEADERSHIP

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the Israeli Military Governor of the West Bank and then transported to the Lebanese border where they were informed for the first time of the deportation order.

The operation was carried out with precision only followed in sensitive military operations, according to Israeli press reports. The authorities, nevertheless did not hold the three leaders responsible for the affair in Hebron; but made it known that they were being deported because their "inflammatory statements" led to the situation. However, the Israeli daily *Yediot Ahronot* (May 4, 1980) reported that the Cabinet had decided on their deportation much before the Hebron affair.

The Israeli afternoon daily, *Ma'arev* (May 4, 1980) described in detail the manner in which the three leaders were deported. It said that heavily armed soldiers visited each of the leaders at home separately and ordered him to accompany them for a meeting with General Benyamin Ben Eliezer, Military Governor of the West Bank. All were taken to the headquarters of Hebron's Military Governor, kept apart and after a one hour's wait they were told that they had to proceed to a meeting with the Defence Minister. Hoods were put on their heads and they were flown by helicopter for two hours, then transferred to waiting jeeps and transported to the Lebanese border.

"We will return you"

Halhoul's Mayor, Mohammed Hassan Milhem, later told a press conference in Beirut (*Al-Safir*, May 4, 1980), that when he expressed the wish to the soldiers who came to take his car so that he can return easily back home, he was told there was no need. "We will bring you back," they said.

He added that he never met the Military Governor or even his representative at the headquarters of Hebron's

Military Governor, and said that the soldier who accompanied him on his helicopter flight beat him when he requested that the hood be removed from his face so that he could breathe.

The Israeli paper *Al-Itihad* (May 6, 1980) revealed another interesting aspect of the expulsion operation of the three leaders. It reported that the telephone of Mrs. Felicia Langer, the lawyer of Mr. Qawasmeh and Mr. Milhem, as well as the telephones of both of them were cut during the evening and night of their deportation. Discovering this fact, Mrs. Langer, who feared an action by the authorities against Mr. Qawasmeh in the wake of the Hebron affair, contacted him and asked him to immediately contact her in case of need at another telephone number.

Next day Mrs. Langer heard that Mr. Qawasmeh and Mr. Milhem were arrested. Unaware of what really happened she immediately petitioned High Court judge Itzhak Cohen to issue an interim injunction forbidding the West Bank Military Governor and the Minister of Defence to deport them. But on her way to Bethlehem, accompanied by Qawasmeh's mother and Milhem's wife, to find where they were being held, she heard that they were already deported.

Intense Reaction

The deportation of the three West Bank leaders triggered a wave of protest the like of which had not yet been seen in the occupied territories. A general strike was observed in all cities, towns and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which paralysed all aspects of life in the occupied territories. Even Palestinian prisoners in all Israeli jails declared a hunger strike and refused to work or receive visitors. Tens of protest demonstrations were organised in Ramallah, Al-Bireh, Bethlehem, Khan Yunis and other localities. The National Guidance Committee, the members of which were warned by the authorities not to engage in political activities, issued a strongly worded statement in which it denounced the decision and said that the expulsion of the three leaders aims at depriving

the Palestinians in the occupied territories of their leaders in prelude to imposing the autonomy plan.

"We categorically reject all arbitrary measures and emphasise that terror, regardless of its intensity, will never force our people to surrender and give up their national rights. On the contrary it will increase the determination of our people to achieve their independent sovereign state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

In Israel itself, many forces strongly castigated the government's move and expressed serious doubts that such a policy could lead to peace.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality cabled the Defence Minister condemning the deportation and the policy of collective punishment resorted to by the authorities. The continuation of the "iron fist" policy pursued in the occupied territories can only lead to further bloodshed, the cable said.

The Committee Opposed to Settlement in Hebron organised a demonstration in Tel Aviv demanding the rescinding of the deportation order against the three leaders, the dismantling of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and total Israeli withdrawal.

Israeli newspapers published scores of readers' letter disapproving of the government's actions. A letter by a certain Moshe Lahav to the *Jerusalem Post* (May 13, 1980) said: "So we have finally got rid of the trouble-makers Milhem, Qawasmeh and Tamimi. Their crime was that they demanded for their people what we Jews demanded for ours less than half a century ago."

Deportation illegal, says U.N.

Word reaction was no less furious. U.N. Secretary General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, condemned the deportation and called for the return of the three leaders. The U.N. Security Council in an unanimously adopted resolution (with the U.S. abstaining) declared the expulsion illegal and called on Israel to rescind these illegal measures and facilitate the immediate return

of the Palestinian leaders.

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Movement issued a statement strongly condemning the Israeli government's action, and called for the immediate return of the three leaders. The statement also added that the Bureau will request the holding of an emergency session of the U.N. General Assembly to discuss Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied territories and means of achieving the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Protests were also reported in several countries — France, Finland, the U.S.A., Italy, etc. — where members of Parliament, municipalities and mass organisations strongly demanded the return of the three leaders to their homes and termed the Israeli deportation order illegal.

Attempt to return

In an attempt to enforce the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolution, the three leaders accompanied by hundreds of demonstrators marched from Amman, the Jordanian capital to the Allenby bridge (which links Jordan and the occupied West Bank) on May 11 trying to return home. But hundreds of heavily armed Israeli soldiers blocked the bridge and forcibly prevented them from crossing.

On the other side of the bridge in the occupied West Bank, hundreds of Israeli peace forces, including a number of MPs, demonstrated in sympathy, demanding that the three leaders be allowed to return. They were joined by the wife and members of the family of the deported Halhoul Mayor, Mr. Mohammed Milhem. But heavily armed Israeli soldiers brutally pushed them back and beat several persons.

In the wake of the government's refusal to allow the three leaders to return, Mr. Meir Viner, member of Parliament for the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, demanded that the Knesset (Parliament) urgently discuss the government's refusal to implement the U.N. Security Council resolution.

At the same time the Committee for a Just Peace between Israel and the Arab Countries published a paid statement in *Ha'aretz* demanding the return of the three leaders.

Killings, Collective Punishment Herald New Israeli "Iron Fist" Policy

The West Bank and Gaza Strip which have been living under a virtually continuous state of siege since the beginning of occupation in June 1967, are currently experiencing the hardest times they have ever known under Israeli occupation. And times are certain to become even harder, according to Israeli officials who seem unconcerned about the daily atrocities now being committed by Israeli army soldiers and organised bands of colonial settlers.

At the root of the present wave of terror is what the Israeli government calls a new "hard-line" policy, which several Israeli newspapers have dubbed instead the "iron fist" policy.

Draconian explanation

The Israeli government draconically explains its new policy as an answer to the events in Hebron. But the authoritative Israeli daily, *The Jerusalem Post* (May 4, 1980) says differently: "Even before the killings in Hebron, the defence authorities had decided to adopt firm measures..." Logic and events also point in that direction.

Having failed, despite all the manoeuvring and repression, to impose the Camp David autonomy plan on the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and with its policy of galloping expropriation of Arab land and creeping annexation drawing tremendous opposition from the population of the occupied territories, the Israeli authorities have sought to achieve their objective by unleashing still more terror.

First Salvos

The first salvos of Israel's new "get tough" policy were fired on the eve of International Labour Day, May 1. The Military Governor of the West Bank, General Benjamin Ben

Eliezer, issued strict orders forbidding the observance of the Day in the occupied territories. Labour unions, professional organisations, schools and the population in general were ordered not to organise manifestations, hold meetings or observe the Day in any way.

But despite that, May Day was observed on a wide scale. Manifestations and meetings were organised in East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus and other localities. Schools in several towns closed for the day, and trade unions declared the day a holiday.

In a small town in the West Bank, Anabta, secondary school students organised a demonstration which was dispersed by force. Soldiers used truncheons and fired straight into the demonstrators wounding three students, and chased the students back to the school. One of the three wounded students, Najeh Abu Alya (17 years old) was wounded in the leg, according to Israeli press reports, and lay on the ground in agony unable to move. The military governor of the town and his assistant approached the wounded youth and cold bloodedly shot him dead.

The Mayors of West Bank cities and towns who immediately tried to hold a meeting in Anabta were forbidden and a 24-hour curfew was imposed on the town. The curfew lasted two whole weeks.

"Terror does not frighten us"

Anabta's municipal council issued a statement in the wake of the killing of the student which said: "The 'extremely democratic and civilized' Israeli occupation authorities have not been content with forbidding our workers and people from celebrating May Day, but have



Club-wielding Israeli soldiers disperse Arab demonstrators in Ramallah who were protesting attacks by Israeli colonial settlers.

demonstrated their might against defenceless students armed only with belief in their people's right to a dignified life in their homeland. Soldiers have invaded Anabta's Secondary School and fired at the students in the courtyard, killing the student Najeh Abu Alya and wounding two others, Mohammed Al-Kubi and Jamal Abdul Kader... Let the occupation authorities and the whole world know that terror does not frighten us. We will remain firmly rooted in our homeland. We will continue to say "No" to the Camp David Accords and the "autonomy" plan; "Yes" to the independent Palestinian state led by our sole legitimate representative, the PLO."

On the same day, Israeli soldiers and frontier guards attacked a May Day meeting in a cinema in East Jerusalem. Using clubs and truncheons they forcibly dispersed the meeting. As people ran out trying to escape the soldiers' brutality, the secret police fired on them: several persons were wounded.

"The Crystal Night"

On April 24, a few days before the May Day events, members of the extreme right-wing Gush Etzionim movement - converged in an organised manner on the towns of Ramallah and Al-Bireh in one of the most serious incidents of vandalism and rampage witnessed by the occupied territories this year. They hurled stones at houses, shops and cars, beat up women, men and children and spread havoc. The result?

Israeli press reports listed 150 private cars and a number of public transport buses wrecked, the glass windows of 200 houses broken, and an undetermined number of the towns' inhabitants injured.

Commenting on the incident the Israeli paper *Al-Ittihad* (April 25, 1980) said:

"This racist incident has evoked terrible memories for sane Jews - memories of the black night known as 'The Crystal Night', when Hitler's thugs attacked Jewish houses, shops and property in Berlin."

Next day the army moved in with its tanks and armoured cars, occupied every street corner in both towns, set up check points everywhere, and spread an unbearable atmosphere of terror. The Military Governor of the West Bank barged into a meeting of Mayors of West Bank cities and towns at Ramallah's municipal hall and ordered the resolutions passed earlier by the meeting condemning the attack the day before, be annulled. But the participants refused.

The same day the Israeli Radio broadcast a statement by the Military Governor in which he warned that he will hit, with an "iron fist" any attempt to demonstrate or hold protest meetings in the occupied territories.

Hebron, the next victim

On May 2, after the Hebron affair, Israel's "iron fist" went into full swing, not only against individuals, but also in one of the biggest collective punishment opera-

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SPECIAL FEATURE

13 Years of "Benevolent" Occupation

by Felicia Langer



Mrs. Felicia Langer is a Jewish Israeli lawyer who has consistently and courageously defended the human and civil rights of the Palestinian people. Since the beginning of occupation in June 1967, she has appeared before Israeli courts as the defense counsel for thousands of Palestinians accused of resisting occupation. She has forcefully denounced torture, persecution and deportation orders and came out strongly against expropriation of Arab land, establishment of Israeli colonial settlements and occupation.

She was one of the first Israelis to reveal the large-scale use of collective punishment and torture by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mrs. Langer has written several books on Israeli practices in the occupied territories and the sufferings of Palestinians under occupation, including a first-hand account, entitled *With My Own Eyes* which details the terror and persecution to which Palestinians are subjected under Israeli occupation with which her experience as a lawyer has made her familiar.

Mrs. Langer has written this article especially for the *Palestine Solidarity Newsletter* on the occasion of the anniversary of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

The Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in the wake of June 1967 is 13 years old. The myth which Israel tried to create about a "liberal occupation" did not succeed in concealing its true nature, its cruelty and repressiveness; its colonial and annexationist character. I should like to examine this occupation in the light of international law.

International Law, called also the "Law of Nations" and "The Rules of Warfare" came into being during the period between the Napoleonic wars and the first world war. The main purpose was to draw a clear line of distinction between occupation resulting from warfare and the claims to any right with respect to territory occupied through unilateral annexation. This body of laws emphasized the temporal character of armed occupation; and had the purpose of carrying out the norms accepted by civilized nations regarding the relations between the occupying state and the population of the occupied territory.

One of these laws is the Hague Convention of 1899, which was ratified by most civilized countries. In another convention the signatory countries waging war were obliged to take upon themselves full responsibility for the actions of persons belonging to their fighting forces.

The Hague Convention was accepted by virtually the entire civilized world. The General Staff of the Israeli Army asserted in 1961 (*Powers of the Army in a Occupied Territory*, published by the General Staff, 1/28 1961, p. 1) that "as established by the various law courts of war criminals after the Second World War, these regulations are to be considered as a declaration of usage of international law, and though Israel is not a partner to the Convention, she has to be regarded as committed by the regulations established by it in the same measure as she is committed to carry out the rules of usage of International Law." The second convention is the fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 regarding the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to which Israel is a signatory.

Before briefly mentioning the contents of the sections of the Geneva Convention, we have to point out that the Israeli law courts have, since the establishment of Israel, stressed, in all verdicts covered by this category, that they adhere to international law and all related conventions.

Another instrument of International Law is the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in December 1948. The preamble of the declaration speaks of "THE EQUAL AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN FAMILY" AND DECLARED IT TO BE "ESSENTIAL IF MAN IS NOT TO BE COMPELLED TO HAVE RECOURSE, AS A LAST RESORT, TO REBELLION AGAINST TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION, THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY THE RULE OF LAW".

This declaration, regarded as a Magna Charta of our times, was unanimously adopted by the United Nations. Israel celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Declaration two years ago with a lot of rhetoric.

The amount of hypocrisy in these celebrations will be demonstrated by a description of the Israeli practices in the occupied territories during all these years, which openly and clearly contravened all the sacred maxims of International Conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Deportation

Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention was drafted in response to the mass deportations of Jews and persons of other nationality which occurred in World War II. It expressly and absolutely prohibits an occupying power from forcibly transferring or deporting civilian persons. Israel has, nevertheless, maintained an open policy of deportation, which was clearly aimed at depriving the Palestinian population of intelligent and active leadership. Doctors, judges, labour activists, lawyers, priests and mayors were and are still being deported. During the first years of occupation there were a number of mass deportations from the Latrun area of the West Bank and from certain villages in the Golan Heights.

The Israeli authorities more than once cynically declared before the High Court of Justice that they are not bound by the Geneva Convention. They have re-emphasized this attitude to the Geneva Convention during the campaign against Nablus Mayor, Bassam Shakfeh's expulsion. Deportation is in contradiction also of article 9 of the Universal Declaration, as well, and all the established maxims of customary international law.

Failure to repatriate and to reunify families and the restriction of movement

Article 13 of the Universal Declaration states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement, including the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country".

This article sounds really sarcastic to any Palestinian. As to the right to leave, they are more than encouraged to leave their homeland, sometimes as a price for their liberty; many administrative detainees were offered freedom in exchange for leaving their homeland for good, and they have refused this offer with

indignation. But "to return to his country" is almost impossible. The hypocrisy and double standards of the Israeli authorities are obvious: all rights to an undivided family, to reunification are sacred when a Jewish family is concerned. The same rights, however, are immediately lost their sanctity if a Palestinian family request reunification. In such cases the criteria are transparently clear: as few Palestinians in their homeland as possible. I know this approach from my years of professional experience. In general reunification is granted, sometimes "ex gratia"; while the attitude is, that a Palestinian not actually living in the occupied territories because of the 1967 war or other reasons, such as work or studies, has no more right to return, or to become an inhabitant of his native village in which his wife lives, than any foreigner, or an ordinary tourist.

Even the right to freedom of movement within the occupied territories is subject to the arbitrary will of the occupation authority. Some Palestinians are restricted to their houses and their villages, by an administrative order as e.g., Khadijah Abu Arkoub in Dora, a village near Hebron. Another restriction is the imposition of prolonged curfews, which are nowadays almost "the order of the day".

Maltreatment of detainees

The most troubling of the alleged human rights violations are those relating to torture and physical abuse of detainees. One hardly has to cite any authority to prove that such practices violate international law. They are prohibited under customary law as codified in numerous international documents, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states in article 5 "that no one shall be subject to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". The same is stated in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Geneva Conventions.

Allegations of torture generally refer to interrogation proceedings in which a prisoner is questioned about his association with one of the various guerrilla organisations. In most cases the accused confesses and is convicted on the basis of this confession. Defense counsel frequently objects to the admissibility of these confessions, claiming that they were obtained through physical coercion. The accused testified that they were beaten and/or tortured and occasionally display the marks on their bodies in open court. Invariably they are disbelieved and their confession is ruled inadmissible.

The "insight Report" of the "Sunday Times" of 1976, and the report of the "Washington Post" expose, although only partially, the sad truth about the tortures about which the Palestinians have been raising the alarm for years. I have seen with my own eyes the marks on the bodies of many victims of tortures; and was active, together with other progressive people, organisations and parties in Israel, and especially the

League for Human and Civil Rights, in protesting these crimes and trying to stop them.

The use of tortures is a common practice of the Israeli "Shin Bet" (Security Service) investigators nowadays also. The latest victims were the Bir-Zeit students who dared to oppose the Sadat-Begin-Carter "peace", trade unions activists, and others. I recently, I again collected shocking evidence about tortures during interrogation. The stigma is still engraved in the bodies of my clients and they testified about this in court. Indeed, this time too, they were not believed. The case of Nader Elafouh, an administrative detainee from Nablus who became insane in prison, and whose wounds I have seen after he was burnt with cigarettes, is now arousing outrage in democratic public opinion in Israel.

Little Itissar from the Jaluzon refugee camp was beaten for several days in the Ramallah military centre; she was sent home every evening, so that her wounds should be seen. Her crime, which she most categorically denied, was that she huddled stones on November 29, 1979, at the car of a colonial settler from Ofra settlement. Itissar was acquitted, but who will efface from her memory the horror of the tortures? Who will punish her torturers — an officer and a girl-soldier, who were identified by her and who also partially admitted the beatings.

During recent months students and secondary school pupils from Jaluzon, Bir-Zeit, Arara and Ramallah have been detained and beaten by soldiers, and then forced to clean toilets or carry heavy stones in the Ramallah Military Camps. They were humiliated and beaten by the soldiers.

Colonization of the occupied territories

Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an occupying power from transferring parts of its civilian population into an occupied territory. The Hague Convention and the Universal Declaration both prohibit any expropriation of private property.

Israel is daily violating these conventions, starting from the first days of the occupation. The first official government initiative came in June 1967 when some 160 Arab houses adjoining the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem were demolished in order to open a plaza in front of the Wall. Soon after, the rest of adjacent "Jewish Quarter" was expropriated. Some 6,500 Arabs, both tenants and landowners, were removed from some 600 buildings over the next several years. Most of the houses were demolished and new ones built in their places for the new Israeli residents. During the past years East Jerusalem was encircled by a ring of Jewish settlements, and by now there are about 60,000 Jewish residents living there.

On the West Bank, three villages in the Latrun area (Elmwas, Yalu and Beit Nuba) were destroyed and their 10,000

inhabitants forced to leave in June 1967, just after the end of the war. They were forced to go on foot to Ramallah, leaving their belongings and houses which were razed by bulldozers. Their lands are now incorporated into "Canada Park" (which covers 4,200 dunams — 1,050 acres — including 1,500 dunams of orchards) and the Mevo Horon settlement. Colonial settlements in Israel proper have requisitioned wide tracts of land in these villages. Tourists and Israelis visiting the beautiful "Canada Park" do not know, that the roses there are growing on a grave of somebody's house and that three flourishing villages were situated there, only twelve years ago. The guides explaining to visitors, that there were settlements in the ancient, biblical times in these places.

Israeli authorities continuously confiscate new lands in the West Bank for colonial settlement. More than one hundred new settlements were established in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, and the Agriculture Minister, Ariel Sharon, speaks of some two million Jews, who, according to the plan, are to live in the occupied territories. Even today new settlements are being established under the auspices of the "peace treaty" with Egypt.

The jurisdiction of the autonomy "will apply to the inhabitants of the West Bank, and Gaza but not to the land... Consistent with this policy is a decision to establish a non-comprehensive municipal administrative unit of all of the settlements, (one such unit named "Shomron" was recently established) under purely Israeli jurisdiction, which means, establish a municipality for the territories on which the settlements are situated. It is estimated that one third of the West Bank and 35 per cent of the Gaza Strip was confiscated until now; while new orders of confiscation issued recently are ready for execution. So one can easily imagine what vast territories have been annexed under the cover of autonomy.

In September-October 1977, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington D.C. held a hearing on the Israeli settlement in the occupied territories. Many aspects of the settlements were reviewed by the witnesses, some of whom were U.S. Zionists, who defended the policy of colonisation, while Mr. A. Atherton denounced it in a very mild language, knowing that Israel would never have kept the territories and settled them without massive economic, military and financial assistance from the U.S. government.

One of the other witnesses, Mr. Paul Quiring, program director for the West Bank Mennonite Central Committee (a relief and development agency) testified about the settlement policy and practice of the Israeli authorities, emphasizing the settlers' dangerous infringement of the water rights of the local population. He gave as examples the case of Arab villages which have lost land to Israeli settlements: Alkara (Nablus district), Beit Naja (Jericho Valley), Beit Dajan

villages, where peasants are fighting for their very existence. Summarizing the problem, he said: "Increasingly, West Bankers recognize settlements as the most threatening consequence of the occupation. Whereas the occupation tended to govern, the settlements seek to transform. West Bankers regard such settlements regardless of their location, size or stated purpose, as little more than a euphemism for the theft of their land and political future."

Under such circumstances West Bankers see themselves in a battle for survival. The battle begins in the fields and the water, and wells of the West Bank. Economically threatened by the loss of farmlands and/or water, villagers must decide whether to stay and endure, or leave. The older ones — those who have endured — respond by saying: "For us, we will survive; but for our children, what is the future?" The two youngsters of Qabotia village, near Jenin, who were shot in 1977, and many others who have been killed or injured by the Israeli soldiers during demonstrations against the settlements during those years constitute a clear answer of the new Palestinian generation to the occupier: "The land is our identity and we shall never leave it."

As is written in Jeremiah, "Woe to him who builds his palace on injustice, his chambers upon fraud, who forces other men to work for nothing, holding back their wages." The houses of the settlers built upon fraud and injustice are also spring-boards for attacks on the Palestinians. Notorious are the attacks of the Kiyat Arba settlers some time ago in Hebron. No one was ever arrested and tortured by them! Or bitten by their dogs!

During recent months however, the provocation has been escalating all over the West Bank. The settlers are attacking the Palestinians, shooting them, forcing them to clean the streets of stones during demonstrations. Moreover, they are establishing a kind of militia of their own, similar to that of the falangists; and they declare that they will "deal" with the Arabs by themselves, having enough arms for it, and claiming that it is their vested right, because of the idleness of the authorities.

Latterly, the Israeli authorities "excellent" in well coordinated plans for the eviction of the Palestinians from their land, to make ways for new colonial settlements and to enlarge existing ones. The land confiscations in Anata, Safit, Um-Solomona, Bartan, Beit-Ilanina, Kafandis, Hebron, and East Jerusalem, were landmarks of this policy. We did indeed succeed in foiling several plans of evictions; but the colonial settlers were very quick in some cases and created new facts accomplishing by enclosing what was alleged to be state land (see "Palestine Solidarity Newsletter", No. 1, for explanation of the state land problem — Editor). This made any struggle on legal grounds impossible.

In general, this invention, called "state land", has been used for the seizure of very large areas

on the West Bank; since the greater part of West Bank land has not been parcelled, or registered in the land registry office. The authorities consequently threaten to declare these lands to be state lands and build Jewish settlements on them, despite the fact that these lands have been for generations owned and tilled by Arab villagers. Now the new Israeli tactic of Efrata in the Bethlehem district and build settlements in the districts of Jenin and Anata are being built on such land.

The Begin government promised the Kiyat Arba colonial settlers additional land at the expense of hundreds of Arab peasants. The land was declared to be a closed area, already back in 1970, under the pretext that the area is needed for military purposes. But Kiyat Arba is a civilian settlement in every respect, was set up on this land and now they want to enlarge it.

The Israeli settlers in Kiyat Arba uphold as belonging to the people of Hebron, bent up young boys and old men of the town, destroy their property, offend the religious feelings of the (un)inhabitants; all, without being punished.

A new settlement, Meash Shomron, was established recently. It was blessed by the Chairman of the Israeli Knesset, Itzhak Shamir, now the Foreign Minister of Israel. He said that the Jewish people cannot relinquish these areas and pass them to hostile and murderous rulers. The settlement is to become part of a full complex of settlements, west of Nablus, for 20,000 settlers.

The inhabitants of this and other colonial settlements constitute a permanent threat to the Arab neighbors.

The occupation authorities have intensified the terror against the Jaluzon refugee camp, under the pretext of "protecting the cars of the colonial settlers from stone hurling..."

In addition to the military patrols in the paths of the camp and the breaking into the huts of the refugees, under the pretext of searching for the "attackers" of the settlers, the authorities have surrounded the school of the camp with barbed wire, in order to prevent the pupils from throwing stones at the passing cars on the road.

The Jerusalem Post wrote that these steps have been taken in the framework of the decision of the war minister to intensify the "safety" of the colonial settlers on the occupied West Bank.

A real pogrom was organised and carried out some months ago by the settlers of Kiyat Arba in Halhoul, in which tens of cars were destroyed. Some time ago similar attacks were made in Ramallah and Al-Bireh. Later this same scene was repeated also in Jaluzon refugee camp... Even before that, windows of the local school were smashed and shots were fired into the air. The latest vandilistic attack on the local inhabitants' property was carried out one week ago, at night, which was called a "night of hammers" because the vandals were smashing the car and house windows with

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13 YEARS OF "BENEVOLENT" OCCUPATION

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iron hammers and stones, unopposed by any soldier or policeman. This outrageous pogrom was denounced and condemned by the Israeli peace forces which expressed their deep solidarity with the Ramallah and Al-Birch Mayors and inhabitants. A general strike throughout the West Bank was the answer to this provocation, which was denounced by the patriotic forces in the occupied territories, the National Guidance Committee, the Mayors and the members of the local councils, the trade unions and public organisations.

Collective punishment

The Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly prohibits collective punishments, stating: "No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed".

Personal responsibility is regarded as a cornerstone of the legal system, especially the penal one. Every offence incurs simultaneously the mind of two factors and a criminal act "actus reus". Without those two factors being proved there is no offence. This elementary principle is ignored by oppressors of all kinds. Maybe it is disturbing to recall, that collective punishments were considered as war crimes in the Nuremberg trials, according to the Hague Convention of 1907, par 50: "No collective punishment, monetary or otherwise should be imposed on the population because of acts by individuals, because the population cannot be held responsible for them collectively".

Nevertheless, the first legal act of the Israeli army in the occupied territories involved imposition of a collective punishment as follows:

"1. The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) enters this area and assumes control and the maintenance of security and public order in it.

"2. IDF hereby proclaims a curfew in all this area. No one is to leave his house throughout the day." And afterwards in Gaza, the curfew was imposed as a matter of course, every day in another quarter or refugee camp.

During all those long years, collective punishment became a trademark of the Israeli occupation. In the course of this action, almost 20,000 houses were demolished. The legal base for this action was the Emergency Regulations. The house was demolished upon an order of the Minister of Defence if one of its inhabitants was accused or even suspected of an illegal act against the authorities. His sons and women and children remained rootless. The principle of the Geneva Convention which declares that reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited was and is blatantly evaded, with the tacit compliance of the U.S.A. Houses were

demolished recently in Silwad and Nablus during the "peace-talks".

Other instances of collective punishments are those imposed on whole cities. In 1969, an order was issued by the Ramallah Military Governor forbidding the purchase of sheep meat. In the middle of the grape season, in August 1970, the sale of grapes and their harvesting were forbidden, unless the notables of the area publicly denounced the actions of the Palestinian resistance organisation and the PLO. During the demonstrations in 1976-77, many demonstrators most of whom were young boys and girls were shot. In 1976 the longest curfew was imposed in Ramallah eleven days. The inhabitants were forbidden to go to Jordan and to receive guests from there. In April 1978 in Nablus the curfew was imposed for seven days; the reason given in the *McLure* newspaper was that the inhabitants did not collaborate with the police. They were prevented from selling their goods. The curfew imposed on Hailuoh lasted 17 days, in a state of full siege. The Bir-Zeit curfew was enforced by the police after almost every demonstration in this town, and the students beaten and arrested. Most recently the students were abused and humiliated in the middle of the night, beaten and forced to run back to their homes, being struck by the soldiers while they were running.

Houses are blown up or sealed. Recently several houses have been sealed and the Supreme Court of Justice refuses to prohibit this action.

The prolonged curfew in Hebron, following the killing of a soldier from Kiryat Arba, clearly testifies to the fact that the authorities have definitely decided to continue ignoring all international law and all the principles stipulating that a person is responsible only for his own deeds.

During the curfew, soldiers entered houses, beat up people, broke up furniture and turned Hebron into a ghost town. An old man lost an eye as a result of the soldiers' beatings. In this ghost town, where legitimate residents are shut in their homes, inhabitants of Kiryat Arba moved around freely. Arab children were confined to their homes, while the children of Kiryat Arba roamed around in the empty town singing songs against the Arabs, which they learnt from their parents. The newspaper *Ha'aretz* reported that a 70-year-old Arab, Jaddallah Jabari is hospitalized "in the Aliya Hospital in Hebron" after 3 inhabitants of his village broke into his home, and one of them, a tall, strong man hit him in the eye with a stick. The doctors who examined him said that they had come to the conclusion that the man lost sight in that eye".

Journalist B. Michael who reported the incident ironically asks the readers: "Perhaps you, dear readers, have heard about a police investigation in this affair? About arrests being carried out? A curfew imposed on Kiryat Arba? Has any official expressed his horror at the news? Have you heard anything about this affair at all? Apparently you did not hear

very much..."

The circumstances of the political prisoners, the victims of the occupation, are very hard.

The prisoners are terribly overcrowded: Every day there are new prisoners, among them, hundreds of demonstrators unable to pay the heavy fines imposed on them, pupils who raised a Palestinian flag; altogether about 4,000 prisoners.

The fresh air, the sunshine and sometimes even water are very precious in the prisons: 23 hours in overcrowded cells, sleeping on the floor, sometimes sharing a mattress with another prisoner. The only space which a prisoner has is enough in which to stretch his legs. This space is his living space: there he eats and reads and prays. And when he dares to complain, there is solitary confinement.

The prisoners do not accept this bitter fate, which they call death sentence by installments. They are struggling for human conditions while the only weapon they have is their body. They were on hunger strike for months, but the stubbornness of the establishment was not shaken. The strike leaders were banished to the notorious Shata prison, but there in a sort of prison within a prison, in poor sanitary conditions, in an over crowded cell, isolated from all their friends; in summertime the heat in this area reaches 40 degrees Celsius. They had to be broken as an intimidating example for all others who might dare to try to achieve more humane conditions. But, as I know, they are determined to preserve their human dignity and their right to struggle for better prison conditions. Today in BeerSheva prison, the hunger strike is still continuing, demanding humane conditions of detention.

In conclusion, the population in the prison, the political prisoners, have not given up their ideas and aspirations. The authorities are mistaken in thinking that if they have the bodies of the prisoners, they have them entirely. The ideas and beliefs are stronger than the bars. The prisoners know that they are not alone, that they are the sons and daughters of their people. The hunger strike in Ashkelon caused mass demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza, and a solidarity movement among the progressive and peace-loving Israeli population. The prisoners and their inhabitants are a ferment and a token that no oppression can calm those who are determined to sacrifice their freedom and their lives for their homeland.

Despite all the terroristic measures of the occupation forces the Palestinian people in the occupied areas have been struggling for almost 13 years against the Israeli war machine, which is supported by the mighty imperialist power - the U.S.A. The people, whose sons are dying daily in the Lebanon, and are being killed by the bullets of the Israeli soldiers, and the colonial settlers of "Gush Etzion" and whose imprisoned sons are tortured by the Shin Bet "experts", and whose leaders were killed by Israeli agents in Beirut, Paris and Rome and whose third generation is growing up in refugee camps, does not surrender.

The struggle against the occupation is going on, its roots deep in the love for the homeland, which is invincible. This struggle is even more acute now, after the signing of the so-called "peace treaty" between Begin and Sadat, under the patronage of Carter, which leaves open all the major problems of the conflict; which ties Israel and Egypt into a dreadful military alliance with the U.S.A. and its global designs against the peoples of the region and the world.

The Palestinians in the occupied territories are "compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression" as stated in the Universal Declaration. The oppressors themselves are responsible for this rebellion and its tragic results, because of their stubborn denial of any rights to the Palestinian people. Fakh Qawasmeh, the Mayor of Hebron, Mohammad Milhem, the Mayor of Hailuoh and the Imam of Hebron, Ragib Altamimi were expelled in a treacherous way from their homeland, without any possibility to defend themselves, because the Shin-Bet cut the telephone line in my house and in their houses, thus undermining our efforts to obtain an order against the expulsion) as an act of a retaliation after the attack on the Israeli settler-soldier in Hebron. This is another example of violation of human rights, which many peace-loving Israelis are condemning. They know, that the occupation is a disaster for the occupiers too; that we are paying for it with corruption, embezzlements, growing dependence on U.S.A. imperialism, the arms race, galloping inflation and the bankruptcy of a modern Sparta, a country which the fathers are betraying their sons and the sons are with a bitter irony describing their dead comrades as looking at the flowers from beside their roots...

W.H.O. CONDEMNS ISRAEL

On May 19 the World Health Organisation condemned Israel for the deteriorating health conditions in the occupied territories.

In a resolution adopted by the organisation's general assembly, its highest governing body, the UN specialised body expressed deep concern at the health and psychological conditions imposed on the population in the Israeli occupied Arab territories and condemned Israel for continuous shelling of Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon.

The resolution also condemned the inhuman practices to which Arab prisoners and detainees are subjected in Israeli jails.

KILLINGS, COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT HERALD NEW ISRAELI "IRON FIST" POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

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tions mounted by the Israeli army in the last few years.

Three West Bank leaders were virtually kidnapped and deported to the Lebanon and a total 24-hour curfew was imposed for nearly three weeks on Hebron, Ain Yabroud, Bethlehem and Al-Dheish refugee camp. The Allenby bridge, linking the West Bank to Jordan, was completely closed for traffic, export of West Bank products via Jordan was stopped, schools were closed and import of money to the West Bank and Gaza Strip from abroad was totally forbidden.

In Hebron itself, a town of 60,000 inhabitants, three buildings and 14 shops near the scene of the incident, were completely demolished and razed to the ground in a sweeping measure of collective punishment. Several adjacent buildings were occupied by the army and their Arab occupants thrown out onto the street. A house to house search was conducted and indiscriminate arrests made. According to press reports over 1000 persons were hauled to prison without explanation.

A reinforcement of five thousand Israeli soldiers was moved to the town. All telephones, private and public, were cut. Entry to and exit from the town, except for army soldiers and Jewish settlers was strictly forbidden. Even representatives of the International Red Cross were denied permission to visit the town.

An eye witness report on the situation in Hebron published by the Israeli paper *Al-Itihad* (May 9, 1980) says: "In an atmosphere of complete isolation and secrecy the occupation forces are metering out collective punishment and mass reprisals on the inhabitants. Houses are being demolished in various quarters. The demolishing of houses in the old quarter has been completed and a public square exists now in their stead. The glass of tens of shops has been smashed; the shops' contents have been looted or destroyed. Soldiers are combing the

town, house by house during the day and night. Men, women and even children have been arrested collectively and individually. In every house they enter, the soldiers beat the occupants and destroy the furniture."

In an additional move of terror colonial settlers from the neighbouring Kiryat Arba settlement were let loose on May 3 against the town. They smashed shop windows, fired into houses and damaged scores of cars as army soldiers were enforcing the curfew.

Terror in other towns

Anabta town was also completely cut from the West Bank and the same methods of terror were used. No details of what took place could filter out.

In Al-Dheish refugee camp, on the road between Hebron and Bethlehem, a curfew was imposed anew. (It was only at the end of April that a two months curfew on the camp was lifted). Three houses and a shop were demolished. (The owner of the shop, Mohammed Haroun, became insane when he saw his shop razed to the ground.) Forty young men were arrested and tortured. An eye-witness later told *Al-Itihad* (May 9, 1980) "The inhabitants of the camp could not distinguish between the soldiers and Gush Emunim members during the attack, because both were there. They entered houses, smashed furniture and arrested and beat children. Water is cut from many houses and tens of families lack of food; but the curfew is strictly enforced."

In Al-Dhahiyah village, a 24-hour curfew was imposed, and a house to house search was conducted. Thirty persons were arrested and tortured, including the mayor and a 90-year-old man, Issa Hassan Ouda Hammouda.

In the Nour Shams refugee camp, a total curfew was imposed, according to the Jerusalem daily *Al-Fajr*, and all male residents were ordered to build a high wall around the camp.

In the meantime, schools were ordered closed in Al-Bireh, Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Hebron and other towns.

In Gaza Strip

Israel's "iron fist" also

extended to the Gaza Strip with the same brutality and hatred, but under the veil of utmost secrecy. Extensive arrests were made in both Gaza City and Khan Younis town, and two houses in Gaza were demolished. Large army reinforcements, according to the Israeli press, were moved into the Strip and additional check points were set up. Youngsters who threw stones at the soldiers, were chased, arrested and brutally tortured. According to news filtering from Gaza, around twenty such children are being held.

Hurling of stones by children at settlers or soldiers has become a major crime deserving severe punishment under Israel's "get tough" policy. In mid-May, according to *The Jerusalem Post* (May 18, 1980) the military government evicted two families from their homes in the West Bank, sealing up the houses. The inhabitants were ordered to live in broken-down huts in two abandoned refugee camps in the Jericho area, because their children hurled stones at soldiers. The children were arrested and members of their family thrown out of their jobs; and brutally tortured. One child, Tarik Ya'acub Shumari (17 years old) of Beit Sahur was transferred to Beit Jala hospital as a result. The physician who treated him, Dr. Peter Kumari, told *The Jerusalem Post* (May 18, 1980) that Shumari suffered from multiple abrasions and bruising. He could not urinate due to traumatic rupture of the urethra.

In another case in Khan Younis, three youngsters were sentenced to up to two years in prison and fined £3,000 (US\$ 1=42 £) each on similar charges.

Force against strikers

This "iron fist" policy has evoked strong reaction among Palestinians. Demonstrations have been organised and total strikes observed in all cities, towns and villages. The Mayor of Nablus, Mr. Bassam Shaka'ah, tried to hold a press conference to protest the coercive measures, especially in "those zones under curfew", but the military government on May 13, closed his town to journalists and barred him from talking to the press. At the same time other mayors were warned to concern themselves only with

municipal affairs and not to talk to journalists. (*The Jerusalem Post*, May 14, 1980).

The Israeli authorities were quick to move against the demonstrators. Heavily armed soldiers dispersed demonstrations and meetings by force, beating participants and arresting many.

Striking shops and transport workers, and civil servants and other service workers were ordered to end their strikes, or else go to jail and have their property requisitioned. The army in many cases brought the shopkeepers from home and forced them to open their business. In some cases, shopkeepers who refused were hauled to jail and their shops ordered permanently closed.

Role of Settlers

Colonial settlers in the occupied territories, particularly members of the Gush Emunim movement and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Jewish Defence League, are actively participating in these large-scale pogroms. In every single incident, such as in Ramallah on April 24, in Hebron on May 3 and in Al-Dheish refugee camp on May 4, bands of colonial settlers converged on a chosen locality and played havoc. Their ultimate aim was spelled out by a leader of the Gush Emunim, Hannan Porat, in a statement to the *Jerusalem Post* (May 5, 1980). He said that he doubted that bloody clashes between Jews and Arabs in the occupied territories could be avoided and that would prove the impossibility of coexistence among them. "This would lead to the expulsion of all Arabs," he added.

Another settlers' leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane, was more direct. "Arabs shall not live in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank-Editor)," he said.

In line with this far-fetched dream it was reported in the Israeli evening paper *Yediot Ahronot* (May 8, 1980) that 200 leaders of Israeli colonial settlements in the occupied territories met in May and took a number of decisions of a military nature. The decisions indicate "military operations" will be conducted by the Gush Emunim in the West Bank independently of the Israeli army; a "Security Com-

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DIARY OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Monitoring Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied territories during May has been a tremendous job. Major repressive operations were launched during that month, the details of which appear in other features in this issue. In this diary we are recording all other violations that have taken place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during May. Although the list is far from complete, yet it should spur public opinion to act without delay to force Israel to respect the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949).

- The Israeli High Court rejected a petition by three Palestinian prisoners that two Israeli newspapers (*Zohar* and *Al-Hithad*) and two West Bank newspapers (*Al-Fajr* and *Al-Tahya*) be admitted to Ramallah and BeerSheba prisons. It also rejected a petition of another Palestinian prisoner that he be allowed to bring a transistor radio to his cell.

- Israeli lawyer, Mrs. Felicia Langer, sent a letter to the Minister of the Interior demanding that an investigation be opened into the forging of documents by the military occupation authorities in the name of the headmen of several Arab villages in the West Bank with the intention of grabbing land belonging to inhabitants of the villages.

- Members of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Jewish Defence League invaded Ramallah on April 28 and distributed a leaflet demanding that all the inhabitants of the all-Arab town leave the occupied territories and that the Mayor, Mr. Karim Khalaf, be expelled.

- Four armed Israeli soldiers accompanied by a colonial settler dragged three Arab students from their home in Bir Zeit on April 24, brutally beat them and later returned them home.

- A score of Ramallah inhabitants were arrested on April 25, their hands were tied together with one rope and then they were dragged like cattle through the town. One Israeli soldier was at the head of the column pulling the prisoners and others were beating the prisoners as they moved along.

- On April 25 Israeli soldiers invaded the village of Aroua, gathered together all males between 14 and 60 years of age in the village square, and beat them, using clubs and iron rods. Twenty students, 15 of them less than 14 years old, were arrested.

- The Israeli High Court upheld a deportation order issued by the Military Governor of the West Bank against a Palestinian engineer, Said Abdul Aziz Al-Sarmah, of the village of Deir Dibwan. Mr. Al-Sarmah was ordered to leave the occupied territories on June 5, 1967 (the date of the occupation) and did not qualify for permanent residence there. In his appeal he presented proofs that he was outside on urgent business matters, but to no avail. The fact that his wife and small son were residents of the occupied territories also did not help.

- Two young men from Nabulus, Anwar Al-Qassas and Mu'ad Al-Habash (both less than 20 years old) were sentenced each to 15 years imprisonment on charges of belonging to a Palestinian resistance organisation.

- The mothers of Palestinian political prisoners addressed a memorandum to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, and to other international organisations drawing their attention to the inhuman conditions under which their children are incarcerated. They requested that an impartial international medical team be sent to investigate the conditions in Israeli jails.

- On May 5, the High Court issued, at the request of lawyer Mrs. Felicia Langer, an interim injunction forbidding the West Bank military governor and the defence minister to deport four West Bank leaders - Ibrahim Dakkali, Chairman of the Engineers Union, Jirish Khoury, Chairman of the Lawyers Association, George Hazboun, Deputy Mayor of Bethlehem and Dr. Ahmed Hamze Al-Natshe, a prominent surgeon.

- In Ramallah, soldiers used tear gas bombs and truncheons to disperse a demonstration of girl students on May 5. Several girls were arrested.

- Six young men were arrested in May in East (Arab) Jerusalem on charges of calling for a strike.

- Strict censorship was imposed on all Arabic newspapers appearing in the occupied territories.

- An Arab taxi driver was shot in the head by two soldiers he picked up in East Jerusalem on the night of May 3. According to the *Jerusalem Post* (May 4, 1980), the two soldiers shot him as he was driving, then stopped the car and left believing he was dead, but he managed later to make his way to a hospital where he was admitted for treatment.

- Representatives of women's organisations in the West Bank managed, despite an Israeli army blockade around Ramallah, to hold a sit-down strike in early May in Ramallah's municipality in protest against the atrocities being committed by the Israeli army and the Gush Munimim and the Jewish Defence League in the occupied territories. They issued a statement condemning the Israeli actions and demanding

that the U.N. put an end to them. The statement attacked the Camp David accords and the autonomy plan.

- Three shops and a pharmacy in Bethlehem were ordered permanently closed by the Israeli army in early May because a number of students standing in front of them threw stones at soldiers who tried to break a strike by force in the town.

- Israeli soldiers attacked the Municipal Hall of Halhoul on May 3, after a demonstration in the town protesting the deportation of three West Bank leaders. All those present in the building, including the wife of deported mayor, Mohammed Milhem, were beaten.

- The Israeli army demolished on May 8, the house of Mustapha Haddad in Gaza. His crime? His son who has been in custody since February is charged with resisting the occupation. Another house in Gaza belonging to Rajab Mohammed Ali was also demolished for the same reason.

- Palestinian prisoners in Ashkelon prison refused to be transferred to a new fortress-like desert prison in Neguv, but the army was used to transfer some of them by force. During the transfer the prisoners were brutally beaten.

- Palestinian prisoners in Jenin and Nabulus Military prisons declared a general strike in protest against the humiliating and harsh treatment to which they are subjected.

- In answer to a general strike observed in the West Bank in protest against the deportation of the three Palestinian leaders, thousands of Israeli soldiers were moved into the occupied territories. Demonstrations in Ramallah and Al-Bireh were brutally dispersed and tens of people were injured. Shops were forcibly opened and several shop keepers who insisted on continuing the strike were arrested. In a small village, Toubas, 10 school permanent teachers, closed their own schools and were arrested. In Shufat, near Jerusalem, several youngsters were arrested for hurling stones at the soldiers who were dispersing a demonstration.

- In Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, the Military Governor threatened the Mayor and notables of the town with several punishment if any resistance to the occupation continued.

- Thousands of Israeli armed soldiers patrolled on May 14 and 15 all the cities and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to prevent any demonstration and meetings on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (May 15). Shop keepers were forced to sign documents that they will not strike and if they did their shops would be appropriated and they would be arrested themselves.

- The Mayor of Anabta, Wahid Al-Hamadallah was ordered not to make any statements to the press, and the town's two secondary schools were ordered closed indefinitely.

- The wife of Hebron's deported mayor, Fahd Qawasmeh, was beaten by Israeli soldiers inside her own house in Hebron. In a statement to the press she said that Israeli soldiers broke into her house, broke the glass of a window, chased her son, then beat and insulted her. A day later the Israeli coordinating military officer in Hebron visited her and told her "the soldiers broke the window glass the day before, but next time they will break your hands and legs".

- The wife of Halhoul's deported mayor Mohammed Milhem told the Israeli paper *Al-Hithad* (May 16, 1980) that Israeli soldiers brutally dispersed a women's peaceful demonstration in the town on May 11, using tear gas bombs. She was beaten and the members of the municipal council were threatened by the military governor with deportation.

- It was announced that the Mayor of Tulkarem and members of the municipal council will be tried on charges of inciting for a strike.

- Four administratively detained persons - Ali Hails, Saleh Abu Miri, Nadhir Sanwar and Fathi Al-Misri - who are held in Gaza's Central Prison, declared a hunger strike until death in protest against their detention without being charged.

- Palestinian prisoners in Ashkelon and BeerSheba prisons issued a statement appealing to public opinion to act without delay to put an end to the persecution they are subjected to in both prisons. The statement also indicated that the prisoners have been on hunger strike since May 1.

- Forty-four fishermen from Gaza were arrested by the Israeli Navy and Ashkelon police while fishing in Gaza's territorial waters. They were beaten and roughed up. Later they were tried on false charges of fishing outside the territorial waters and fined 300 thousands Israeli lira.

- Twenty persons were arrested in Bethlehem on May 19 after a molotov cocktail was hurled at an Israeli army patrol. Curfew was imposed on part of the city. More than 20 persons were also arrested in Nabulus for the same reason.

- Thirty shops were ordered permanently closed in Gaza and the nearby Jabalya refugee camp because of a strike against occupation.

- Curfew was imposed on the village of Al-Dahiyeh, near Hebron, on May 21 in retaliation for the raising of Palestinian flags on the houses of the village. Heavily armed soldiers surrounded the village.

- The military governor issued an order forbidding any new construction in Hebron, even the completion of buildings presently under construction.

- Israeli settlers from a settlement near Nabulus distributed a leaflet in the city threatening Arabs with reprisals if they made any move to stop Israeli settlement in the occupied territories.

- Beit Sahour municipality was forbidden to build a new hospital in the town.

- According to the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*, plans are underway to establish a new Israeli settlement on the land of Kubej village, near Nabulus. An earlier attempt on the same land was ordered stopped by the Israeli High Court.

- Curfew was imposed on the villages of Silwad and Ain Yabroud and 500 dunams of land in their vicinity were expropriated.

- The Gaza Municipal Council protested on May 24 the establishment of an Israeli settlement at the southern tip of the Gaza Strip. The new settlement is to be known as "Kati D".

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
33rd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

On May 12, 1980 the 33rd
World Health Assembly adopted the
following resolution

HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN
THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

The Thirty-third World Health Assembly,
Mindful of the basic principle laid down in the WHO
Constitution which provides that health of all peoples is
fundamental to the attainment of peace and security;

Aware of its responsibility for ensuring proper health
conditions for all peoples who suffer from exceptional
situations, including foreign occupation and especially settler
colonialism;

Bearing in mind that the WHO Constitution provides that
"health is a state of complete physical, mental and social
wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity";
Affirming the principle that the acquisition of territories
by force gravely affects the health, psychological, mental and
physical conditions of the population under occupation and
that this can be only rectified by the complete and immediate
termination of the occupation;

Considering that the states parties to the Geneva
Conventions of 12 August 1949 pledged under Article One
thereof, not only to respect the Convention but also to ensure
its respect in all circumstances;

Recalling the United Nations resolutions concerning the
inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;
Affirming the right of Arab refugees and displaced persons
to return to their homes and properties from which they were
forced to emigrate;

Recalling all the previous WHO resolutions on this matter,
especially resolution WHA26.56, dated 23 May 1973, and
subsequent resolutions;

Recalling resolution 1, A and B (XXXVI), 1980, adopted
by the Commission on Human Rights which condemns Israel's
violations of human rights in occupied Arab territories,
including Palestine;

Taking note of the report of the Special Committee of
Experts;

1. **NOTES** the report of the Director-General on health
assistance to refugees, displaced persons and the Arab
populations in the occupied territories, including Palestine;

2. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation of the Director-General's
efforts and requests that he continue his collaboration with
the Palestine Liberation Organization in providing all necessary
assistance to the Palestinian people;

II

Having examined the annual report of the United Nations
Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near
East;

Deeply concerned by the deterioration of the situation
suffered by the Agency concerning its budget and the services
provided, due to the repeated Israeli aggression;

1. **THANKS** the United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its unfailing efforts;

2. **REQUESTS** the Director-General to continue his

collaboration with the United Nations Relief and Works
Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, by all possible
means and inasmuch as to ease the difficulties it is facing and
increase the services it provides to the Palestinian people;

III

1. **EXPRESSES** its deep concern at the poor health and
psychological conditions suffered by the inhabitants of the
occupied Arab territories, including Palestine;

2. **CONDEMNS** all acts undertaken by Israel to change the
physical aspects, the geography, the institutional and legal
status or context of the occupied Arab territories, including
Palestine, and considers Israel's policy in settling part of its
population and new settlers in the occupied territories a
flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention Relative to the
Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the relevant
United Nations resolutions;

3. **DECLARES** that the establishment of Israeli settlements
in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, and the
illicit exploitation of natural wealth and resources of the Arab
inhabitants in these territories, especially the confiscation of
Arab water sources and their diversion for the purposes of
occupation and settlement, inflict serious damage on the health
of the inhabitants;

4. **CONDEMNS** the inhuman practices to which Arab
prisoners and detainees are subject in Israeli prisons, resulting
in the deterioration of their health, psychological and mental
conditions;

5. **CONDEMNS** Israel for its refusal to implement Health
Assembly resolutions calling upon it to allow refugees and
displaced persons to return to their homes;

6. **CONDEMNS** Israel for its refusal to apply the Fourth
Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian
Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

7. **CONDEMNS** Israel for its arbitrary practices and its
continuous shelling of Palestine refugee housing settlements in
southern Lebanon which affects the physical, social and
psychological health conditions of the Arab inhabitants, and
considers that its refusal to implement resolutions of the World
Health Organization constitutes an explicit breach of the letter
and spirit of the WHO Constitution;

8. **ENDORSES** the opinion of the Special Committee of
Experts that it is "fruitless to imagine that a state of complete
physical, mental and social welfare can be achieved" under
occupation;

9. **REQUESTS** the Special Committee to continue its task
with respect to all the implications of occupation and the
policies of the occupying Israeli authorities and their various
practices which adversely affect the health conditions of the
Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories and Palestine,
and to submit a report to the Thirty-fourth World Health
Assembly, bearing in mind all the provisions of this resolution,
in coordination with the Arab States concerned and the
Palestine Liberation Organization.

STATEMENT BY MUNICIPAL COUNCILS:
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, CHAMBERS
OF COMMERCE AND MASS ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WEST BANK

The Israeli authorities are exploiting the events in Hebron,
which were triggered by the Israeli government's decision to
colonise the town, to arrive at political conclusions desired by
occupation, i.e. to impose the conspiratorial Camp David
accords and Sadat-Carvey-Begin's autonomy plan.

The deportation of Fahd Qawasmeh, Mayor of Hebron,
Mohammed Hassan Milhem, Mayor of Halhoul, and Sheikh
Rajab Tamimi, religious judge of Hebron, is a major step in the
direction of destroying the patriotic leadership and is intended
to force the municipal councils and patriotic institutions to

succumb to the Israeli aggressive plans.

Israel has illusions that by such measures it can
camouflage its designs and inhuman practices, the last of which
was the killing of the student Nageh Abu Atya in his school
yard in Anabta by the Military Governor and his assistant,
the destruction, persecution and acts of terror in Ramallah, Al
Birah, Al-Jalazun and Al-Dheisheh. It also has illusions that it
can stamp out all patriotic activities. Consequently it has
intensified its vengeful repression and terror, by suddenly

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STATEMENT BY PRESIDENTS AND DIRECTORS OF UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE WEST BANK

The Israeli military forces have intensified their campaign against educational institutions in the occupied West Bank. During the past month, several institutions were attacked and students beaten savagely and facilities destroyed. More recently, army units have every day arrested students at random in or around the campuses in which they are enrolled, insulted and beaten them and frequently arrested them for up to two weeks with no charges or trial. Schools and universities have been closed by military order, and some schools are still closed.

These actions by the military forces are direct evidence of the truth of the news in Israeli media that the occupation authorities have decided to escalate their provocative and punitive measures against the population of the West Bank. These measures include the closure of educational institutions as well as long curfews, economic restrictions and steps against local leaders.

We are convinced by what we have suffered so far that these are not idle threats but are rather a systematic and vicious campaign against education itself. We have decided, therefore, to announce the suspension of instruction in our respective institutions from Monday, May 5 until Wednesday, May 7. This step is as much an attempt to protect the students of these institutions from armed attack as it is a declaration of protest against these attacks.

We also urgently request immediate action by international agencies to secure the necessary protection for educational institutions in the West Bank and for all individuals connected with them. Steps that are essential if these institutions are to resume their normal and legitimate functions include world-wide public attention to the campaign of terror against educational institutions in the West Bank and an international investigation of unjustified actions by the occupation forces against educational institutions.

May 5, 1980

ATTEMPT ON LIVES OF THREE ... (continued from page 1)

Although in the past scores of leaders were deported in line with this policy, present day attacks on the leaders of the occupied territories have been stepped-up after the Camp David accords and the attempts to impose the autonomy plan. The recent attempt on the lives of the three mayors and reports in the Israeli press indicate that Israel will qualitatively and quantitatively escalate its multifaceted terror against them.

Despite all statements to the contrary by Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Begin, the full responsibility for the outrageous attempt on the lives of the three mayors squarely falls on the Israeli government. It is Israel's refusal to implement the UN resolution on the Palestinian question and its adamant refusal to recognise the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent sovereign state, which has led to this situation. The expropriation of Arab land, establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and the continuous protection and encouragement provided to Israeli colonial settlers lie at the root of these tragic events.

Reaction everywhere to this recent crime has demonstrated a unanimous outrage against it and an unequivocal demand for the severest punishment of its perpetrators, and an end to terror against the leaders and population of the occupied territories.

Palestine Solidarity appeals to public opinion everywhere to urge the UN Security Council and General Assembly to take immediate steps to halt these attacks and put an end to Israeli terror in the occupied territories.

DIARY OF THE OCCUPIED ... (continued from page 10)

- Five youths from Jenin, aged 15 to 17 were arrested on May 24 on charges of throwing empty bottles at Israeli soldiers and police. Their fathers were arrested along with them. Initially 50 youths were arrested, but the rest were released after interrogation.

- All "political" activity by charitable and professional organisations in Gaza was banned by an order of the military authorities issued on May 25. The nature of "political" activity was left open to the military authorities themselves, to define.

- Three homes were sealed in the Rashadiya refugee camp outside Nablus on May 26 and those living in them were evicted, on charges that youths who lived in them threw stones at Israeli soldiers.

- In Bethlehem, seven young Beduim from the Za'atra camp, were detained on charges of throwing stones at Israeli soldiers.

- Total curfew was imposed on central Hebron on May 26, following the stabbing of an Israeli soldier a few days after the curfew imposed on the whole town was lifted.

- Nine youths from Kalfilya and Tulkarem were sentenced by a military court to pay heavy fines for allegedly throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. Seven of them were fined £4,000 each, an eight £3,000 and the ninth £2,500 (£US\$ 1 = 42 £).

- Seven women, among them the wife of Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka'ah, were detained by police on May 29, for holding a sit-in strike in Nablus to protest Israel's sealing of three homes in a nearby refugee camp and the eviction of their residents. The women will be tried before a military court.

- In Ramallah, Israeli soldiers arrested 10 youths on May 29 for throwing stones at Israeli soldiers.

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deporting the three leaders in the wake of its failure to deport Bassam Shaka'ah.

We declare that the municipal councils, the national associations and organisations and the official departments are institutions established only for serving the citizens and solving their problems. Therefore we reject the policy aimed at isolating these institutions from their people and dragging them into contradiction with their leadership and the Arab nation by forcing them to succumb to the Camp David schemes and the autonomy plan.

We appeal to the Arab nation and to world public opinion as well as to all governments and international organisations, to firmly oppose the onslaught against our people, their freedom and rights.

Our people in the occupied territories firmly oppose the Camp David conspiracy and the autonomy plan no matter what form it takes. We are firmly committed to the indivisible unity of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and outside, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. We firmly condemn the policy of settlements, repression and terror practised in the occupied territories. We demand the return of Fakh Qawasmeh, Mohammed Milhem and Sheikh Rajab Tamimi and refuse to turn our municipal councils and institutions into servants of designs directed against us.

We are committed to upholding these institutions as long as they continue serving our people and their cause; and we will prevent any deviation from this aim.

We demand the end of collective punishment to which the people in the occupied territories are subjected, particularly in Hebron, Halkoul and Anata.

The peace we are seeking is one based on justice; and the only way to achieve it is through the recognition of the unity of our people and their sole legitimate leadership as well as our right to self-determination and the establishment of our own independent state. The only effect of the policy pursued by Israel and the Camp David partners is to increase tension and enmity, and intensify the conflict in a way which threatens peace and security everywhere.

KILLINGS, COLLECTIVE ...

(continued from page 9)

"mittee" will be formed also independent of the army; and a statement will be issued for distribution to all settlements which would say: "We have started recording, following and watching. Please inform us of any unrest, inciting, throwing of stones, disturbances and any event where the security forces do not effectively react."

In the meantime, The Jerusalem Post (International Edition, May 11-17, 1980) reported that "settlement leaders have decided to form 'regional security committees' which will obtain arms, train settlers and collect information on Arab riots, stone-throwing and incitement."

In the same issue, the paper published an enlightening item of news. It said that 120 kilograms of explosives, plus weapons and ammunition were discovered on the roof of the dormitory of a religious "school" (Yeshivat Hakotel) in the old quarter of East (Arab) Jerusalem and that the link between Gush Emunim and the cache is being investigated.

SALE OF ARAB NEWSPAPERS BANNED IN WEST BANK

In one of his first decisions since becoming acting Defence Minister, Premier Menachem Begin, has confirmed an order by the West Bank military governor barring the distribution of two East (Arab) Jerusalem newspapers *Al-Fajr* and *Al-Sha'ab* in the occupied territories.

The two papers join a third one, the weekly *Al-Taliya*, in this ban. (*Al-Taliya* has been banned from distribution in the occupied territories for over two years.)

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